



# Mental Health Services Act Progress

September 2008

Welcome to the second edition of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Progress Report! On a bi-monthly basis, the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) will issue this electronic publication on its [Web site](#)\* to keep all interested parties apprised of recent developments in California's implementation of the MHSA.

## MILESTONES

In recent months, major progress has been made toward fully implementing the MHSA. This month features county highlights of how portions of MHSA funds are being used.

### HOUSING

October 15 marks the month for San Francisco County to open its doors to the newly established 990 Polk Street housing development, which is partially funded by the [MHSA Housing Program](#). This 110 unit development will house 10 MHSA funded units at a cost of **\$1 million**. (See Page 3 for more details about the development.)

Below are other county housing projects whose applications have been approved:

- **Sacramento County**—Mutual Housing at the Highlands is a 90-unit multi-family rental housing project, of which 33 units are dedicated to adults with serious mental illness enrolled in MHSA services. **\$5.1 million** of the total \$24.3 million is being funded through MHSA.
- **Santa Clara County**—Belovida is a 28-unit senior housing project, of which three units are dedicated to older adults living with serious mental illness enrolled in MHSA services. **\$450,000** in MHSA funding contributed to the overall cost of this \$10.9 million project.

### WORKFORCE, EDUCATION & TRAINING

On June 10, DMH made an **additional \$110 million** (now \$210 million total) in [Workforce, Education, and Training \(WET\)](#)

funds available to counties to implement their three-year plans. As of August 31, more than **\$10 million** has been approved for 48 counties to conduct community program planning and to develop their three-year WET plans. **Over \$34 million** has been approved for **10 counties** to implement their three-year plans.

On July 28, DMH posted an application for MHSA WET funding for Regional Partnerships. Regional Partnerships aid the mental health system by outreach to multicultural communities, increasing diversity in the workforce, and reducing mental health stigma. These partnerships serve as a collaborative network for counties to plan and implement activities and resources related to WET. DMH intends to allocate up to **\$3 million** on an annual basis for the support of Regional Partnerships throughout California, to be distributed to counties.

### PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

As of June 30, **\$21.2 million** has been approved for **48 counties** to conduct community program planning and develop their three-year [Prevention & Early Intervention \(PEI\)](#) plans. Eight counties have submitted PEI plans for review, of which two have been approved for fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09:

- **Mono County**—\$125,000 to fund two PEI projects serving children, youth and their families.
- **Monterey County**—\$3,357,700 to fund four PEI projects serving all age groups.

### What is the Mental Health Services Act?

The Mental Health Services Act became California law in 2005 after passage of Proposition 63.

The Act establishes and funds a broad continuum of community based prevention, early intervention, and other services for Californians with severe mental illnesses.

The types of services the Act establishes are described in depth on the [MHSA Web site](#).

The Act provides funding through a 1% tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million.

The California Department of Mental Health administers the Act, and counties and their contracted agencies provide the direct consumer services established in the Act.

\* If you are viewing this document from a computer, the phrases that are underlined and blue can be "clicked," which will take you to more related information on the DMH Web site

## We've Got It Covered!

The DMH Office of Communication & External Affairs tracks news and county progress stories involving MHSA. Below are only a few of these successes:

**“County expanding mental health services,”** Eureka Times-Standard, September 2, 2008: Story about **Humboldt County’s** expansion of mental health services, including prevention and early intervention efforts, using MHSA funds. “At the heart of that expansion is a holistic and integrative approach to providing services...to reach out to rural areas—both the unserved and underserved.”

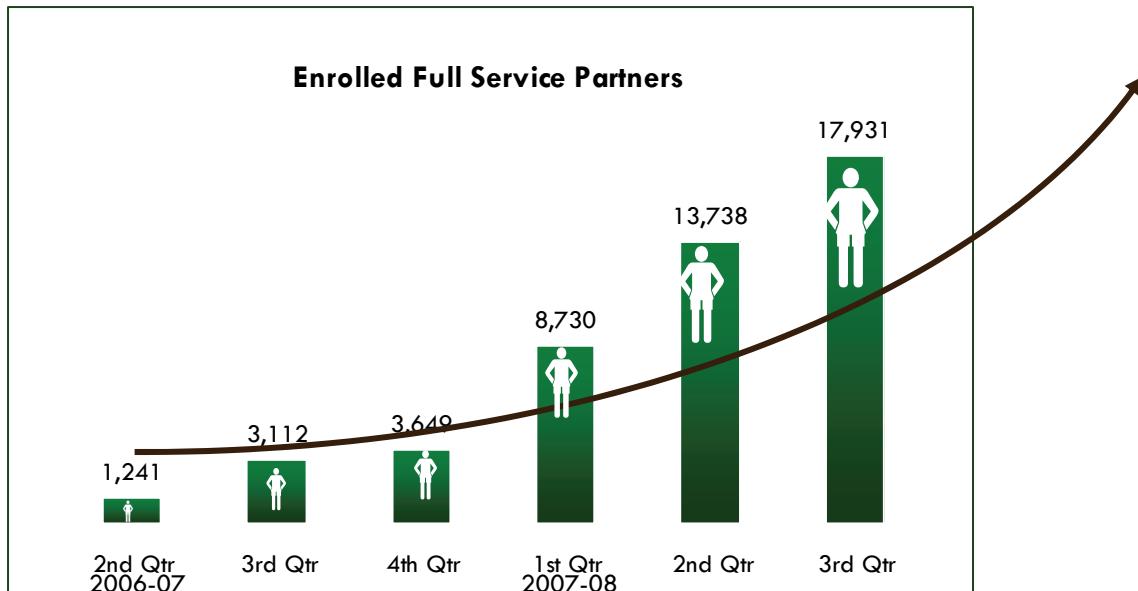
**“Calaveras County looking to reduce number of suicides,”** MyMotherLode.com, September 17, 2008: Story about **Calaveras County** using MHSA funds to form a Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee. Director Rita Downs comments that “Calaveras County has around 9-13 [deaths by suicide] each year, and we would like to have a committee of people that are really passionate about the subject and are willing to work hard and look at the issue.”

### Placer County

**The Welcome Center** in Placer County is a program designed to help participants work toward wellness and recovery, while also focusing on reducing stigma through community connectedness and consumer ownership. Consumers are encouraged to take an active role in program development and implementation. Groups and activities are run by consumers or co-facilitated with staff. Community integration, including field trips and speaker presentations, remains a focus of the Welcome Center. Learn more about the Welcome Center by checking out their [website](#).

### Nearly 18,000 People Getting “Whatever it Takes”

DMH collects confidential MHSA data from local mental health providers about the people being served with MHSA programs and services. The chart below illustrates major growth in Full Service Partnership (FSP) enrollments, demonstrating that MHSA has given counties the chance to increase mental health services to people in great need. Please note: Not all fourth quarter data has been submitted, therefore new data is not incorporated in the chart below.



#### What is a Full Service Partnership?

Full Service Partnerships (FSP) provide the most intensive level of services among the variety of MHSA-funded programs.

They are targeted to individuals who have serious mental health disorders, have no other source of mental health support, and aren't currently receiving enough support to keep them from being at risk of homelessness, incarceration, hospitalization, or institutionalization.

These partnerships between a service provider and an individual or family are called “full service” because they are targeted to individuals in need of a range of services and supports, including help with housing, employment, school, physical health, a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, and establishing social supports.

Individuals of all ages are participating in FSP programs.

As stated in the MHSA law, the goal of the partnerships is to reduce the negative outcomes that result from untreated mental illness, including suicide, incarceration, school failure or dropout, unemployment, prolonged suffering, homelessness, and removal of children from their family homes.

## MHSA Helps Fund San Francisco's 990 Polk Street Development

San Francisco's newest housing development, located on the southeast corner of Polk and Geary Streets, opened its doors this past August. The 990 Polk Street housing complex rises nine-stories high with a total of 110 apartment units, including 81 studios and 29 one-bedroom apartments. [Citizens Housing Corporation](#) and [Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation](#) are the developers who created 990 Polk Street to be a service-enriched supportive senior housing community that maintains the independence and well-being of each resident and the community as a whole.

### About the Developers



Citizens Housing Corporation (CHC) is a nonprofit housing developer who has been in business since 1992. Their mission is to increase and preserve affordable housing opportunities for low-income

Californians. With over 3,000 units in their portfolio, including green buildings, mixed-use, transit-oriented developments, transitional housing, and renovated HUD Section 8 properties, CHC is an important partner in the development of San Francisco's 990 Polk Street housing development.



Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), a non-profit business, houses 2,500 extremely low-income people in 1,800 apartments and residential hotel rooms in 25 buildings. The rent charged to TNDC tenants is only 30-40 percent of market rate. TNDC not only provides housing opportunities for low-income individuals, but they also serve 250 children a year through their after school program, which provides mentoring, tutoring, computer training, sports, dancing, art activities, and annual college tours. TNDC's participation and experience with San Francisco's housing needs make them an important partner for the 990 Polk Street housing development.

### Inside the 990 Polk Street Housing Development

- ↳ Building area: 78,865 square feet
- ↳ Private conference/meeting room for larger groups
- ↳ Nurse/health station
- ↳ Eight-station computer learning center/library
- ↳ Two large community common areas for residents
- ↳ Solarium
- ↳ Outdoor courtyard/deck/patio
- ↳ Laundry Room
- ↳ Community Garden
- ↳ Management offices
- ↳ Two storefront retail spaces
- ↳ 24-hour/day desk clerk

The MHSA Housing Program partially funded the construction with \$1 million to reserve ten MHSA units. An integrated services team provides the housing community with a full range of onsite and offsite resources, including:



*San Francisco's 990 Polk Street development will open its doors October 15 for residents to begin moving into their new homes.*

- ◆ Community-building events and educational opportunities;
- ◆ Information and referrals to local social services;
- ◆ Health management;
- ◆ Case management; and
- ◆ Crisis prevention & intervention

The Family Service Agency in San Francisco has a Senior Full Service Wellness Program (SFSWP), which also provides the 10 MHSA residents with integrated recovery and treatment services appropriate for older adults with severe mental illness. SFSWP helps older adults live in the

community and maintain the greatest possible independence, stability, and level of functioning possible.

As shown in the green box above, the 990 Polk Street housing development is fully equipped with accessible offices for residents to meet with service staff, private meeting rooms, and an exam room for visiting nurses or other community health practitioners. Space is available to accommodate both confidential and community-building or educational spaces. All housing units are adaptable with wheelchair clearance and turnaround dimensions.

### Status Update:

A total of 5,000 applications were handed out to potential non-homeless residents; of which approximately 3,300 were turned in from those interested in one of the 59 units available. The remaining 60 units, reserved for the homeless, are being referred by the city of San Francisco's Public Health Department. Referrals have been received and interviews are currently being conducted.

**October 15**—Doors open for residents to begin moving in. All units must be leased by December 31, 2008.

A Grand Opening celebration is expected to be held in October.



# Announcements & Events



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **DMH [Prevention and Early Intervention](#)** announces the launch of the [Statewide Projects web-page](#). Here you will find information, resources, publications, reports, & updates related to the four statewide projects:
  - ↳ Suicide Prevention
  - ↳ Student Mental Health Initiative
  - ↳ Reducing Disparities
  - ↳ Stigma and Discrimination Reduction

## SAVE the DATE

- ♦ CiMH—[Rose Jenkins Conference Revisiting Systems of Care in the Changing Landscape: The Mental Health Services Act, Evidence Based Practices and Fiscal Challenges](#) - Thursday, October 23, 2008 - Friday, October 24, 2008
- ♦ **42nd American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference** to be held April 15-18, 2009 in San Francisco.  
[Electronic flyer available](#)
  - ↳ Interested in being a presenter at the conference? [Click here](#) to learn how.

## STATE MEETINGS

- ♦ DMH's Statewide Project "Reducing Disparities" [conference call](#), Tuesday, September 30, 1:30pm-3:00pm.
- ♦ DMH [Oversight & Accountability Commission \(OAC\)](#) will host its next meeting in Santa Rosa October 23-24. [Event details](#) available as the date nears; or contact OAC staff at (916) 445-8696.

This document is published by the California Department of Mental Health - Office of External Affairs and Communications. For questions about this publication or to suggest ideas for future editions, please call (916) 653-2969 or [email](mailto:Jennifer.Turner@dmh.ca.gov) Jennifer.Turner@dmh.ca.gov. To receive notification that new editions of the publication are available, simply [subscribe](#) on the [MHSA Web site](#).

For questions about the MHSA, you can contact DMH at 1-800-972-MHSA (6472) or [email](mailto:mhsa@dmh.ca.gov) mhsa@dmh.ca.gov